



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
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March 22, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah Gilg and the FBI announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

On March 22, 2010, the Honorable Laurie Smith Camp, United States District Judge, sentenced Jeffrey Phillips, age 37 of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, to 96 months, (eight years), imprisonment following his conviction for threatening to assault or murder a United States Judge. He was also ordered to serve a 3 year term of supervised release after his release from prison.

Phillips pleaded guilty to sending a threatening letter addressed to Senior Judge C. Arlen Beam of the Eighth Circuit of Appeals. The letter was received at Judge Beam's office at the United States Courthouse in Lincoln, Nebraska, on July 13, 2009, where it was opened by a staff member. The envelope contained white powder and a letter threatening to kill Judge Beam. The letter also stated that the white powder was anthrax. Subsequent investigation determined that the powder was non-toxic.

The FBI determined the letter had been sent by Phillips, a convicted sex offender being held in the Missouri state prison system at the Ste. Genevieve County Detention Center in St. Genevieve, Missouri. He had placed his name and return address on the envelope. A later search of his jail cell uncovered materials consistent with the mailing. Phillips was interviewed by the FBI and admitted sending the letter. He reported being angry with Judge Beam over his handling of a case involving some of Phillips' friends and associates. He had not, himself, ever been a party to any case decided by Judge Beam. Based on other correspondence sent by Phillips authorities believe his motivation in sending the letter was to have himself taken out of the Missouri state prison system and moved to a federal facility. Following sentencing Phillips will be returned to the custody of Missouri authorities for further proceedings. His federal sentence will follow the completion of any incarceration ordered by the State of Missouri.

Name of Defendant: Jeffrey Phillips

AKA:

Age: 37

City of residence: St. Genevieve, Missouri

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Threatening to assault or murder a United States Judge: imprisonment of up to 10 years, a fine of \$250,000.00, both such fine and imprisonment, a term of supervised release of not more than 3 years, and a \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Lincoln, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: St. Genevieve, Missouri

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: NA

Others Charged in Same Scheme: NA

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: July 13, 2009

Federal Arrest Date:

Date Complaint Issued:

Indictment Returned Date: September 15, 2009

Initial Appearance Date: October 9, 2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Guilty plea entered on January 5, 2010

Sentencing Date: March 22, 2010

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: NA

Assigned Magistrate Judge: Thomas D. Thalken

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Held without bond

In Continuous Custody Since: October 9, 2009

Assigned District Court Judge: Honorable Laurie Smith Camp

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: JWS